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Resist Newsletter, Feb. 16, 1968

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RESIST

*a call to resist
illegitimate authority*

February 16, 1968--763 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139--Newsletter # 6

DEFENSE AND RESISTANCE

As many of you already know from an ad in the February 11 New York Times, a fund has been established to aid the legal defense of resisters and their supporters. Its name is the Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund, Inc., and its address is 94 Prescott St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138. The Fund will have to raise very substantial amounts of money if the Spock-Coffin case and the hundreds of other resistance cases are to be fought through.

Some people have asked whether the work of the Fund does not replace that of RESIST. The Fund relieves us of the financial and technical burdens of legal defense; its work is absolutely essential in this regard. But in the last analysis, I think, the only firm defense of Spock and Coffin and Ferber and Riordan and Young and the many other resisters is organizing to end the war. We would be optimistic, at best, to depend on the courts of a nation at war for the vindication of our political, moral, and legal beliefs. We will win some cases; we hope Spock, Coffin, and the others will be found innocent, as we believe them to be. Such victories, and the moral witness of standing trial, contribute greatly to the anti-war movement. But it is self-evident that the only way we can "win" all these cases is to win the struggle against the war and the American policies of which it is an expression.

I hope, therefore, that while you will help the Defense Fund in its fund-raising efforts, you will also bend every effort to implement your organizing programs. No doubt you know many friends and colleagues who have been hesitant directly to support RESIST; they may now be willing to contribute to the Fund. And they may also be willing to join with you in the Spring Academic Day of Conscience, the Call for which will soon be in your hands. We hope these events, held on or around the day on which the Spock-Coffin trial begins (probably in mid or late April), will provide an opportunity for broad organizing on campuses and in communities.

-- Paul Lauter

— GENERAL NEWS —

END DEFERMENTS: GOOD NEWS FOR RESISTANCE

The announcement by the National Security Council February 17 that deferments for graduate study and critical occupations have been discontinued means good news and new responsibility for the resistance. Good news: because the elite in America are no longer being bribed to let the war continue; we can expect increasing dissent. Thousands of students, faced with a choice of resistance or acceptance of an immoral war, will refuse to serve; how many of the future leaders of your country are you willing to imprison? Whether students choose to find other deferments, to accept exile, or to go to prison, the government is threatened with total disaffection from the system by those who would have been its leaders. And this cost will increase as long

"The forthcoming draft trial could well turn out to be an historic landmark in the legal evolution of the fundamental rights which the framers of the First Amendment sought to secure for all time."

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A RECENT LETTER REPORTS OF DENNIS RIORDON that he "seems to be in good spirits...He is laying bricks, will soon be put on minimum security. A problem is his social service worker, who has refused all on his visiting and letter list except his immediate family and Diane, his fiance--and she was almost turned down.

Jeremy (Mott) and Dan Fallon (another convicted resister) are still in Du Page County Jail. Jeremy's sentence was reduced to 4 years. He writes us that he is doing 'easy time.' Dan's motion for appeal and appeal bond was made yesterday. Dan received 5 years. Judge Parsons refused him appeal bond on the grounds that he was more dangerous than someone who lied to his draft board and then admitted he lied. Hopefully he will be out on bond soon."

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IN THE NAME OF AMERICA is the title of a collection of texts in American civil disobedience, soon to be published under the auspices of Clergy Concerned. The book is a reminder to the public of a long tradition of extralegal, individual resistance as a form of political expression in America, and is therefore mainly historical in its orientation. But the contemporary application is forcefully made, according to Rev. Richard Mumma of Harvard, by citing the documents from Nuremberg and Geneva on the "principles of gentlemanly warfare," and the current cases of non-cooperation based on American violation of these principles. Rev. Mumma was not certain of the book's publication date, but suggested the American Friends Service Committee could supply further information and, perhaps, copies.

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A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST IN DULUTH, MINNESOTA, the Rev. Philip Solem, last Saturday mailed a pamphlet urging draft resistance to male seniors of all Duluth high schools, public and parochial. The pamphlet said in part, "I urge you in the name of humanity not to serve in the armed forces." The Bishop of Duluth was not immediately available, but the chancery office stated that "Father Solem was not speaking as representative of the diocese" (NY Times, February 14).

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MCCARTHY REPEAT?

On February 13, 1968, the Education Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature approved a bill proposing the establishment of an 11-man investigating committee. Five Education Committee members opposed the measure. The purpose of this committee would be to inquire as to whether certain instructors at the University of Massachusetts have prompted students to support draft resistance.

The impetus for such a measure, initially urged on by Representative Melia of Allston, arose from events connected with the October 16 Draft Resistance Rally in Boston. It was alleged that one instructor

encouraged his students to attend the rally and offered to excuse them from class. In addition, a tape recording had apparently been made by a U.Mass. student of an instructor urging support of draft resistance.

After being approved by the Education Committee, the bill will now go to the Rules Committee.

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ACTION IDEAS: Suggestions for local activities-

The DORCHESTER COMMUNITY UNION (638 Dudley St., Dorchester, Mass. 02125, 617:445-1655), is a multi-issue project, devoted as much to action for significant local change as to action against the war. Indeed, its unity comes from demonstrating to the community the close relation between many of its problems and the waste of war.

This was not its original form. It began last summer as a local Vietnam Summer project, but by August the members realized that community service, not just political education, was needed. Therefore a storefront office was found and the DCU was formed. Its two operations are the Local Action Group and the Dorchester Union on Vietnam.

The Local Action Group has won victories in getting adequate street lighting in dangerous places, enforcement of housing codes, and reopening of public showers. They have conducted teenage programs and voter registration drives, and they have advised neighborhood people about problems such as welfare. The Dorchester Union on Vietnam has provided information on how the war is hurting the community, has circulated petitions, has conducted a campaign of writing supportive letters to servicemen in Vietnam, and has organized a draft counseling program. Neighborhood people have been employed in getting lists of 1-A young men, getting their addresses, calling on them with offers of counselling, legal aid, medical examinations, and support.

Support comes mainly from the community itself. Total costs, including one full-time organizer's salary and one subsistence salary, come to \$645/month. The largest expenses are for publicity and telephone.

Multi-issue projects like the DCU are springing up in low income neighborhoods all over the country.

THE BOSTON DRAFT RESISTANCE GROUP (102 Columbia St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139, 617:547-8250) describes their Pre-Induction Program. (Similar programs are being run in New York, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, and other cities). "Every draft victim must be given a pre-induction physical at least 21 days before he is conscripted.... Selective Service gathers these men together for 'processing' in groups of 20 to 80 at the local boards and busses them to the Boston Army Base. This gives us a crucial opportunity to reach them before it is too late....

"The program works as follows....Five or six BDRG members show up at the draft board at 6:30 A.M. to meet, counsel, and organize the pre-inductees. Many of these guys want to talk; a good percentage of them are already consciously against the war, and a lot more are badly confused. We tell them about deferments, exemptions, and their right to refuse to sign the security questionnaire. We also hand out draft fact cards with our address and phone number and even make appointments for them to come in for counselling. Then we ride down

to the induction center with them on the bus, wish them good luck, and catch a return bus back to town (usually by 8:00). All in all it's a pretty groovy way to start the day."

In New York and other cities, adult supporters of the Resistance appear at the induction center to help leaflet and talk.

VIGIL AND CANVASSING FOR SPOCK

An example of what is being done in many cities: in Champaign, Illinois, a silent vigil was held on behalf of Spock the Sunday before the arraignments. Then, last week, canvassers collected signatures in support of the five indicted resisters. The names of the canvassers were obtained from the RESIST files of people from Champaign who had already signed the Statement of Support. RESIST has lists of signatories from nearly every community--over 12,000 to date.

Professor William Davidon, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa., has described a wide variety of activities that have gone on recently in the area: a debate between Mitchell Goodman and Professor Kinter over WPEN; debate between Noam Chomsky and Kinter on KYW-TV; press conference for Chomsky, Goodman, and three draft resisters at a hotel; cocktail party for Chomsky and Goodman at which \$700 was raised for RESIST; a mass meeting (1100 people) at which 240 people engaged in direct support of resisters by turning in signed envelopes with contributions--WUHY taped the speeches for later re-broadcast. The area RESIST group also participated in a protest at the Federal Court Building on the day of the arraignments, followed by leafletting and discussion about the war and the draft at a suburban high school--a pattern followed in Washington, Boston, New York, and other cities.

Perhaps the most interesting recent event in the area was a High School Workshop, "You, the War, and the Draft," presented all day Saturday at Media, Pa. Some 70 students and 50 adults took part, discussing dissent, conscientious objection, and civil disobedience.

RESIST WAR TAXES: Two Campaigns

The Peacemaker "No Tax for War" Committee (932 Dayton St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45214, c/o Rev. Maurice McCracken), and the War Resisters League (Rm. 1025, 5 Beekman St., New York 10038), are proposing a mass resistance to payment of income taxes used for war. They explain that most refusers file returns as usual, but refuse to enclose all or a portion of the full amount owed. Some withhold a token amount only. Refusers write to IRS (with copies of the letter to Congressmen and the President) that they are not opposed to the income tax, but to its use in support of an illegal and immoral war. Refusers who are owed money by the government request its return. Others refuse to pay the 10% Federal excise tax on telephone service--specifically a war tax. Up to now, IRS has not tried to collect the excise tax, but has taken income tax due out of bank accounts or salary. Technically, any infraction of the Internal Revenue Code carries a penalty of up to a year in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 plus costs, but the government has so far limited itself to the collection of taxes. If you are interested, you may obtain further information at either of the above addresses.

ACTION ITEMS:

In many cities the shortage of teachers makes it possible for most college graduates to work as substitutes. Because of the freedom substitutes usually have, this is a good way for graduate students and married women to talk to high school students about the war and the draft....The Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Vietnam, University of Illinois, publishes a "Vietnam Clip Sheet," a photo offset reproduction of articles on the war taken from responsible newspapers. Items that might ordinarily be missed or not included in local newspapers are thus given prominence, and the fact that the articles appear in the original typeface strengthens their credibility....SNCC has available a folded single sheet handout on the draft entitled "Hell No!" For copies contact SNCC, 100 5th Ave, room 803, New York, New York--212-YU 9-1313....Two chapters of the New England Resistance have begun Monday Night Dinners--spaghetti, \$1.00....On April 3, 1968, the Rockland County Committee to End the War in Vietnam will present previously solicited petitions and complicity statements to their draft board in a demonstration beginning 11AM in front of the entrance at 145 Main St., Nyack, N.Y. The organization has voted unanimously to continue war opposition by resistance and tax refusal.

PRISONERS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE (c/o Mark Twain Column, P.O. Box 387, Boston University Station, Boston, Mass) offers to answer specific questions about serving time in prison and to help coordinate support for prisoners and their families.

MOTHER REFUSES SON

Mrs. Helen G. Alexander, Box 413-Route 6, Frederick, Maryland, has written to Selective Service that she will not allow her son, who is a minor, to serve in the Armed Forces. "If I do not stand for him," she asks, "who will?" She challenges mothers all over the United States to follow her example.

Draft Information

With the elimination of draft deferments for all first-year and incoming graduate students except in Medicine it has become extremely important for anyone seriously concerned with finding an alternative to the draft to seek out COMPETENT LEGAL ADVICE or a QUALIFIED DRAFT COUNSELOR. No one should rely on rumors or other casual sources of information.

The purpose of this column is to make available some of the information that we have received concerning the draft. We hope it will be useful, but it is by no means intended to be inclusive.

Medical Deferments (4-F): Out of the 35,000,000 men registered for the draft, there are roughly 5,000,000 out for medical, moral, and psychological reasons. 4-F and 1-Y classifications still account for the great bulk of those who are deferred.

For a medical deferment, be sure to have an elaborate report from your doctor; don't rely on the doctors at the draft center for any help. The Surgeon General of the Army publishes a list of all disqualifying medical conditions. (Write Women's Strike for Peace for reprinted copies). When your doctor is preparing your report have him use the exact language utilized in the regulations of the Surgeon General's report.

Occupational (2-A): There are no longer any mandatory job deferments. This is now left up to the local board's discretion. At the present time about one-half of the local boards in the country defer members of the Peace Corps, Vista workers, and teachers. It is not known whether this will change or not.

Dependency (3-A): Anyone who requests and receives a STUDENT DEFERMENT after July 1, 1967, thereafter makes himself PERMANENTLY INELIGIBLE for a fatherhood deferment. Ordinarily, dependency deferments are available to anyone who has a child or children (not necessarily his own) living in his household and dependent on him for support. The registrant need not be married to qualify.

Hardship deferments also come under 3-A, and a student deferment does not make a registrant ineligible for this kind of dependency deferment. However, hardship deferments are extremely difficult to get, and they are becoming more so.

Age and Order of Call: The present order of preference for induction is as follows:

- 1) ALL DELINQUENTS
- 2) Volunteers
- 3) Single men 18 to 26, oldest first, AND men who have no children and who were married after August 26, 1965, oldest first.
- 4) Married men who were married before August 26, 1965, but who have no children.
- 5) Men 26 and over who are classified 1-A.

Student (2-S): Student deferments must be granted to all undergraduate students under the age of 24 who request it, provided that they are attending school full-time. Class standing, grades, major field of study, etc.--none of these can be used as an excuse to withhold the deferment.

Delaying Tactics: There are several methods for stalling and delaying induction, including changing one's location prior to the physical or induction dates, requesting a personal appearance before the home board, and submitting classification appeals. For information, SEE A DRAFT COUNSELOR.

Canada: There is no evidence that lends support to the rumors claiming that the U.S.-Canadian border will be "closed." Extradition is virtually impossible for U.S. citizens who are in violation of the SSS-related laws. Complete and detailed information on Canada in relation to the U.S. draft is available from the Canadian Committee to Aid War Objectors, PO 4231, Vancouver 9, B.C.

TO OUR READERS: Additional copies of the Newsletter can be obtained at the price of 10¢ apiece.